

# THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

"SEEK YE THE LORD, ALL YE MEAK OF THE EARTH, WHICH HAVE BROUGHT HIS JUDGMENT;  
SEEK RIGHTEOUSNESS, SEEK MEKNESS: IT MAY BE YE SHALL BE HID IN THE DAY OF THE  
LORD'S ANGER."—Zephaniah ii, 3.

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## DEPLORABLE CONDITION OF AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Washington correspondent of the *Standard* writes under date of December 11—The condition of affairs in these States is unusually grave. The people of the most thickly-settled Northern States are called upon to face real privation, while the people of the South are confronted by famine, disease, and the beginning of a war of races. I have already sketched the several "reconstruction" conventions, as they are called, of the Southern provinces; I desire now to present certain facts illustrative of the effect of negro domination, and the reversing of the social, political, and civil relations of the blacks and whites. In Virginia, the proportion of negroes who work to negroes who do not, is as one to eight; in that province the chief occupation of the black man is to attend meetings of the "Loyal League," secret midnight drills, &c. In Richmond, Lynchburg, and Petersburg, there are "vigilance committees" of blacks, and these societies have dependencies in various counties; daily the best men are receiving "warnings

to leave the State, on pain of death;" the few negroes who reject Radicalism are made the special object of the machinations of the committees; in fact, several "Conservative" negroes have been assassinated by unknown persons. Since the 1st day of November, there have been more than 20 incendiary fires in Virginia, or fires believed to be of incendiary origin; dwelling houses, barns, and corn-houses have been burned, and families left homeless at the beginning of a hard winter. Horses and cattle have been poisoned, stabbed, or ham-strung. These outrages are unquestionably the work of villanous negroes. The leaders of the Virginia blacks indulge in threats of "confiscation," &c., wicked appeals are made daily to the ignorant and susceptible blacks to "take reward" out of the property of the whites for past years of unrequited labor. Great distress prevails, not only among the poorer white people of Virginia, but among the blacks. In the Carolinas the condition of affairs is no better. There we see the

same drilling of armed blacks, hear the same threatenings. There acts of incendiarism and other outrages by the negroes are as common as in Virginia. The blacks performed little labor during the past season; half the fields were left untilled. The result is a scarcity of rice and breadstuffs, a plenitude of starvation. In Salisbury, North Carolina, and within an area of ten miles, 13 persons have starved to death within the past two weeks. (A movement for the relief of the North Carolina sufferers has been inaugurated in Baltimore.) In both the Carolinas the principal business of the blacks is to attend political meetings. As the negroes get more and more arrogant, collisions between them and the white people become more and more frequent. Several riots have taken place in North Carolina, and in South Carolina a bitter feeling of hostility exists between the two races. The people are impotent to take those measures for the relief of the suffering poor that other communities employ, because the machinery of civil government has been broken down by the military pressure. In Alabama the utmost confusion prevails. The negroes are divided against themselves, and are murdering each other; yet the white people do not escape the "warnings" and attacks by the "vigilance committees" and "loyal leagues." The Alabamians are, for the most part, supplied with food sufficient for the winter, though in some quarters great distress exists through scarcity. You have been informed already of the negro riots in Alabama, the formation of "courts" by the negroes for the trial of obnoxious persons, the marching and counter-marching of the troops, the arrests of blacks, &c. In Louisiana the natural results of idleness on the part of the laborers are now seen. The financial condition of the State, or province, is deplorable; men of business distrust each other; half the warehouses in New Orleans are closed, half the wharves unused; the negro convention, or "reconstruction" convention, issues bonds and finds it impossible to negotiate them for 60c. in the dollar; by the frequent changes in office the machinery of the civil law has been entirely disarranged;

ignorant negroes act as judges or "recorders," and punish or acquit accused persons without reference to law or justice. The "convention" refuses to authorise the construction of levees to keep the Mississippi from inundating the State, unless the white property owners will consent to an equal division of lands with the black paupers. In Mississippi the state of affairs is horrible. Every civil judge has resigned; General Ord has appointed and reappointed a "supreme court," and his appointees have, one after the other, thrown up their offices. No decent man can be found to take the oath prescribed by Congress. The civil laws are dead; the only method of maintaining any sort of justice between man and man, is the military method. Gangs of white and black outlaws infest the State, and highway robbery has attained a Mexican perfection. Disease has swept off thousands of the negroes who gathered in camps along the Mississippi. There is not a cent in the treasury of the State, and General Ord forbids the negotiation of loans. The result is, that the State is no longer able to support its charitable institutions. The asylums for the insane, the deaf and dumb, and the blind, as well as the houses for paupers, have been out of necessity thrown open; the poor blind orphans, the mutes, the lunatics, have been turned into the streets. The sane and healthy people, themselves impoverished, cannot take care of all these afflicted ones; say for yourself, then, what must become of them. The General commanding has closed a manufactory of artificial limbs for maimed Confederate soldiers, the plea being that to permit such a manufactory to exist would be to "recognise" the rebellion in some sort. The unavoidable closing of asylums is not confined to Mississippi; in South Carolina we have seen the same thing. In Mississippi the blacks are not less aggressive than in other States; on the 1st instant the negroes of Meridian and its neighborhood collected and threatened to sack the town; the troops were called out, the roads picketed, and the black crowd was finally broken up, the leaders having been arrested. In Arkansas

the negroes have, for the most, abandoned work; they are, say the newspapers, "killing stock, stealing horses, ploughs, and harness," some of them "are living by hunting and fishing." Much of the Arkansas cotton remains in the field, ungathered, the negroes refusing to work. In Georgia nearly all the planters are poorer than at the beginning of the year; many planters are preparing to emigrate to the North or to other countries. In Georgia we see a band of negroes deliberately attacking the pupils of a college. In all the Southern States a general feeling of insecurity prevails among the white people, and with good reason. Everywhere the negroes are armed; everywhere they are to be seen drilling, marching, or wandering in squads or singly about, carrying rifles and shot-guns over their shoulders. They are suffering, and they charge their miseries upon the white race, Yankees as well as Southerners.

If we turn from the Southern States to the Northern, we do not find the picture wholly a pleasant one. The winter that is upon us has in store miseries such as we have rarely seen. Though the premium upon gold has fallen some 5 per cent. within a week, the decline has brought no corresponding relief to the vast mass of the community, for the advance in the prices of provisions has been more than 5 per cent. during the same time. I have already called attention to the fact that not less than 60,000 working men, clerks, &c., are idle in the city of New York and its suburbs. But this enforced idleness is not confined to the metropolis. In the Eastern, Western, and Middle States, employers are shutting up their shops and discharging their servants, or, where this is not the case, reducing the number of operatives, and the hours and compensation of labor. In Troy, New York, two large iron foundries and rolling mills have been closed for the season, and 1000 men have been thrown out of employment. In New-haven, Connecticut, no less than 1500 working men have been discharged by employers within the last fortnight. In Rhode Island several large cotton mills have been closed; others are running on "half time." In Bid-

ford, Maine, the millowners have reduced the wages of operatives one quarter, and have shortened "time." In Dover, Littleton, and Enfield (New Hampshire), a reduction of wages, amounting to 12½ cents in the dollar, has been made, and the hours of labor cut down by a quarter. In this capital the chief officers of the several departments are discharging clerks by the hundred; 50 female clerks are to be dismissed from the Treasury Department, and not less than 600 clerks in all will be discharged from that bureau. One hundred clerks are to be discharged from the Pension Office. These dismissals are recommended by Congress. Already the clerical force of the Agricultural Bureau has been reduced one-third; probably not less than 1500 clerks will be sent adrift before the new year. In Louisville, Kentucky, there is a great scarcity of coal, a fact due to the sudden closing of navigation by the freezing of the canals and rivers between the coal districts and that city; employers have found it necessary to shut up foundries and mills, and dismiss the operatives. In fact, the people find it difficult to get fire enough for cooking and other purposes. I have given an account of the sudden freezing of the Erie canal, and the "locking up" of many millions of bushels of grain, and potatoes, apples, butter, &c., in immense quantities. The effect of this misfortune is seen in the sudden advance of the price of provisions in New York. To add to our calamities, a tremendous storm and fall of snow has blocked up half the railways in the Northern States, so that provisions on the way to market are detained. Only this was needed to complete the affliction of the freezing of the canals.

The Philadelphia correspondent of the *Times*, of December 16, says—The Christmas holidays are coming, but the festal season will scarcely be a merry one in America. There is too much misfortune in business, and too many unemployed workmen, everywhere with us, not to give a tinge of sadness to a festival that for five successive previous seasons has found the United States in the enjoyment of the highest prosperity. Between Christmas 1866, and Christmas 1867, there

is the sharpest contrast. Men in successful business then are bankrupts now; Trades' Unions that were then planning strikes for higher wages, are now willing to work for any wages at all; and among the lower classes money was plenty then, but now they have scarcely enough to keep the wolf from the door. That poverty which always comes in winter, this season threatens to be worse than ever, and so alarming is the condition of the working classes, that one American newspaper hints that bread riots need not surprise the people should they break out before long in some of the large cities. The *New York World* declares that there are at present 50,000 men out of employment in that city, that there is a complete stagnation in all the trades, and that there is general poverty and destitution among the laboring classes. Armies of the unemployed crowd the docks and wharves, fill the employment offices, and flock to the few situations that offer. Of the 4,000 jewellers in New York, 1,500 are unable to find work; 1,000 out of 2,500 jewelry-box makers, and 300 out of 500 diamond-setters are idle; and of the 3,000 other persons employed in different branches of the jewelry trade, nearly 2,000 are adrift. There are 900 engravers in New York who are seeking employment, and but 200 can get it. There are 6,000 carpenters, of whom 500 are idle, and 1,000 working for half-wages; the masons and bricklayers are nearly all employed, but cannot work more than half their time; the 10,000 people in the hat trades are employed from one to three days in the week for small wages, the employers thinking this better than the discharge of one-half or two-thirds of them; the iron trades employ but one-fifth of their force a year ago, and 5,000 iron workers are idle; in ship building dulness reigns supreme, and the ship carpenters, in despair, have long since sought other employment; one-half of the 8,000 cigar makers are without employment; of 6,000 stevedores or navvies, 4,200 are without regular work; among the clerks and other assistants in business houses and retail shops, the destitution is sorrowful, and at least 5,000 of them

are wandering idly about the streets; of house servants, a class that is constantly reinforced by immigration, 3,000 want places. This gives an idea of the condition of affairs in the metropolis, and the rule there prevails everywhere. Philadelphia, the leading manufacturing city, has 25,000 idle working people. From Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, a similar report comes, and from the South the unfortunate condition of the blacks, who will not work when they can get it, and now are without the chance to work if they would, is the constant theme of all our intelligence. In the agricultural regions of the North there is not the same destitution that prevails in the cities, and there is more chance of procuring labor, so that the unemployed of the cities are urged to go to the country. They will starve if they remain, and may better their condition if they go. Of course, this sad state of affairs is produced by the great stagnation in trade, which, though it apparently brightened up a few weeks ago, seems now more dull than ever. A correspondent writes from New York city, "the retail dealers complain that they are not doing anything like the average holiday business. Seeing how depressed most of the wholesale departments are, it would be strange were it otherwise." The *New Haven Register*, in Connecticut, says—"More men are out of employment to-day in New Haven, than at any previous time in the last ten years. Our manufacturers are reducing, or have reduced, their forces, and it is a difficult matter for a mechanic or working man to obtain employment of any kind. In this city not less than 1,500 working men are unemployed." The *New Bedford Standard*, the organ of the whale oil business, says—"There has not been a transaction in oil or bone from first hands in this market for about a month." The *Pittsburg Dispatch* reports that a general lock-out is imminent in the glass and iron works of that city, as the employers have resolved to close them to compel a reduction of wages. The great Rensselaer Ironworks at Troy, New York, have stopped, throwing a large body of men out of employment. The

*Louisville, Kentucky, Journal*, reports more unemployed people in that city than at any time within its knowledge. A correspondent of the *Boston Journal* writes from Portland that, "go where you may in Maine, business will be found crippled, and the cry of dull times goes up on every hand. Never before were our manufacturing interests in such a languishing state." The *Manchester Journal* in New Hampshire says this gloomy report is true of all New England. Along the lakes the shipyards are idle, and their owners cannot get contracts. And to add to the general misfortune, a sudden "cold snap" has frozen up all our rivers, and most of the harbors, before the cities and towns on them and in the interior had procured their winter's supply of coals. This has raised the cost of fuel to very high rates.

To increase the sad condition of the poor, this country has been visited by a desolating and widespread storm of snow and sleet, which for its severity at so early a period in the winter, is almost without a parallel. It began on December 11, and continued with scarcely any intermission until the 15th, being remarkable for a snow-storm in the lowness of the temperature. It appears to have extended all over the country, accounts of it being received from Portland in Maine, Charleston, South Carolina, Louisville, Kentucky, St. Louis, on the Mississippi, and Chicago, on the Lakes. At Philadelphia the mercury fell to ten degrees above zero, the snow and sleet descending violently, driven by a gale from the north-east. In New York the mercury marked 6 deg. above zero; in Boston, 2 deg.; in Portland, 4 below; Buffalo, 2 below; Washington, 20 above, and

Louisville, 25. While the coast has been strewn with wrecks, all inland communication between the cities seems to be cut off, except at irregular intervals, the railroads being blockaded, the rivers frozen, and the telegraph wires broken. On the 12th of December, and again on the 14th, the almost impassable condition of the streets in New York and Philadelphia interfered so much with locomotion, that business was at a stand still. There was a lull on the 13th, but the storm was renewed next day with violence. Such severe weather at this season is unexpected, for the great storms of winter in America rarely come before the New Year sets in. Four persons were frozen to death in the streets of New York and Brooklyn, and one in Richmond.

During the great snow-storm on the 13th of December, a bold robbery was successfully perpetrated in New York. A messenger of the Bank of New York, while on his way along Wall-street from the "Clearing-house," with a satchel containing checks and draughts, was accosted by a man who jumped from a sleigh and seized the satchel. The man at once got into the sleigh and it was driven off, the messenger still clinging to the satchel, and being dragged along the street, the thief and two others with him beating the messenger on the head and arms to make him let go. After being dragged a hundred yards he was beaten off, and the sleigh disappeared with the booty. The satchel contained \$3,600,000 in checks and draughts, and a small amount of money. Payment of these papers has of course been stopped, but a large number of the business men of New York are interested, and a diligent search for the thieves has begun.

## NITRO-GLYCERINE.

Almost everybody has heard of nitro-glycerine, but very few indeed know anything about its nature and composition. It is only very lately that the public has become familiar

even with its name, and that acquaintance has been formed through the terrible and fatal accidents which have been caused through ignorance of the proper way to handle it. We there-

fore present our readers with some extracts upon the subject, considering it important that they should be properly informed in relation to the most powerful explosive substance of these combustible times. The following is from *Chambers's Encyclopædia (Supplement)*:

Nitro-glycerine, known also as *Glonoin*, or *Glonoin Oil*, is a compound which is produced by the action of a mixture of strong nitric and sulphuric acids on glycerine at low temperatures. Two methods of preparing it are given in Watts's "Dictionary of Chemistry," vol. ii. pp. 890, 891, to which we must refer the reader who seeks for details on this subject. According to whatever method it is prepared, it is obtained as a light yellow oily liquid, of specific gravity 1.595, inodorous, but having a sweet pungent aromatic taste; a single drop, however, if placed on the back of the tongue, produces headache and pain in the back, which last for many hours. At 240°, or higher, it is liable to explode, and if exposed for a length of time to half that temperature, explosion may take place at 180°, or less; and it detonates when struck, the explosion being excessively rapid, and unaccompanied by smoke. This explosive or detonating power renders nitro-glycerine a useful agent in blasting. It has been patented by a German, under the name of Nobel's Patent Blasting Oil.

According to Professor Abel, the greater the quantity of oil, the lower would be the degree of temperature necessary to explode it; and having, in experiments, exploded twelve to twenty drops by keeping them for six hours daily at a temperature of 180°, he had formed the conclusion that a temperature of 110° to 130° would explode the quantity contained in the cases. Moreover, the commercial article, being far from pure, contains a certain quantity of free acid, which generates a gas, and produces decomposition, by which the heat is increased, which again decreases the composition; and thus the commercial oil has a greater tendency to explode than the pure compound. Moreover, the compound, when saturated with this gas, increases in bulk, and its pressure against the sides of the case become stronger, thus rendering it

more liable to be exploded by concussion.

We learn from a recent number of the *Nevada Gazette* (quoted in the *Chemical News*, August 16, 1867), that this substance is being advantageously employed in the blasting necessary for the construction of the summit tunnel on the Central Pacific Railway. The operation is said to be going on 25 per cent. faster than if powder had been used. The small holes required for the oil can probably be drilled in less than one-third the time required for the larger ones necessary in using powder. The oil does much more execution than powder, as it always breaks the rock from two to sixteen inches beyond the hole, and also throws out a much larger body. The oil is here estimated as having, in hard rock, a strength five times greater than powder. It is made upon the spot, and is considered much stronger as well as safer than the imported compound. It has been now used for several months, and there has never been any accident, nor has a single blast missed fire since the Chinamen commenced filling the cartridges. Colonel Schaffner, of the United States army, has published an official report on this compound, to which he gives the name of "nitroleum," which confirms the fact that its explosive properties are far greater than those of gunpowder. From a report on the same subject by Captain Grant, R.N., it appears that it is exploded by concussion, and apparently, under ordinary circumstances, by nothing else—neither by friction nor fire. Generally, a trifling percussion is sufficient to explode it. Its explosive force is about ten times that of gunpowder. It has all the appearance of common oil, and is usually carried in tin cases, each of which holds 25lb. Each can is packed in a wooden case for carriage. In a paper on this subject by M. Kopp, that chemist holds the view already noticed, that accidents are mainly due to the presence of impurities. He states that, by means of charges of 1,500 to 2,000 grammes of oil, from 40 to 80 cubic metres of a hard rock may be detached.

Mr. Isaac Lowthian Bell, of the Hall, Washington, in the county of

Durham, and an Alderman of Newcastle, in his evidence upon the explosion at Newcastle, said he was the proprietor of large chymical works and collieries, and had paid some attention to chymistry for many years. He was acquainted with the properties of nitro-glycerine. The existence of nitro-glycerine had been known to chymists for 20 years, but it was only in the year 1864 that it was brought into public notice as a substitute for gun-powder, consequently all our practical acquaintance with its effects had been gathered within the last three years. The elements of nitro-glycerine separate with immeasurable velocity, and hence the violence of the explosion, which has been calculated to be ten times that of gunpowder. Nitro-glycerine, particularly, if impure, was liable to spontaneous decomposition at ordinary temperatures. The gases given off, if confined to the vessel containing the nitro-glycerine, exercise pressure on the remaining liquid; and a vessel containing nitro-glycerine under such pressure was found by Kopp to be liable to explosion under the least shock or slightest movement. Again, if this substance were brought from a cool place and exposed to a temperature of from 68 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, decomposition took place, pressure ensued, and on removing the vessel containing it, explosion might be the consequence. A continuous exposure to a temperature of 46 degrees caused nitro-glycerine to crystalize, and the resulting solid matter was liable to explosion on the slightest disturbance. Nitro-glycerine when exposed to a temperature sufficient to cause ebullition, was very prone to explode. It was alleged that the presence of wood spirit deprived nitro-glycerine of its explosive qualities. To separate the wood spirit from the nitro-glycerine, water was added, and the nitro-glycerine resumed its explosive character. If, as he was informed, the "blasting oil" manufactured by Nobel, of Hamburg, was diluted with wood spirit, it would appear from the evidence they had heard that day that cold—congelation—was capable of separating the nitro-glycerine from the accompanying wood-spirit. He had a copy of the

instructions with respect to the use of Nobel's nitro-glycerine, which were issued by the manufacturer of the nitro-glycerine now under consideration, and were intended for those who had to use the substance. The instructions state that the nitro-glycerine "can be stored for an indefinite time without loss in weight or deterioration in quality." Such an intimation was likely to mislead persons in the habit of using it, because the nitro-glycerine used in commerce was more or less liable to spontaneous decomposition and to explode. The instructions stated that "the peculiar property of the blasting oil not to explode by mere contact with fire, rendered its carriage, storing, and handling very safe, even when in an explosive state." So far from that statement being true, the compound was liable to explode if brought into contact with heat. And so far from being safe in transit, it was liable, from its specific gravity (which is 1.6), to explode from mere movement, and was consequently a very dangerous compound for a railway company to carry. The quantity of nitro-glycerine contained in the 30 canisters originally brought to the town, would have been equal to 4½ tons of gunpowder, and it was stored where percussion, motion, or a moderate temperature might have caused its explosion. Such a quantity of pure nitro-glycerine would have been sufficient to have blown down 115,000 tons of solid rock. Nitro-glycerine was, in fact, gun-cotton, glycerine being used as a medium instead of cotton. In the opinion of the witness, the explosion was caused by the crystalized nitro-glycerine exploding spontaneously, occasioned by some of the pieces moving or slipping. The pieces might slip one on the other, and the pieces exploding in one canister would explode the rest. He believed it was not made in Britain as an article of commerce.

The following is extracted from a letter written to the *Times* by Mr. A. Nobel, the Hamburg patentee of the "blasting oil."

Whenever an article can be regularly manufactured it can be regularly used, and accidents are only the result of inexperience—the want or neglect

of instruction. There are now five factories in operation, where large quantities of nitro-glycerine are being manufactured daily, and how is it that the substance can be made, stored, and sent off without frequent accidents taking place? How is it that gunpowder mills, improved by centuries of experience, are frequently blown up, while nitro-glycerine works, notwithstanding their novelty, [are comparatively safe? On five factories, aged collectively 11 years, there comes but one explosion, and that a slight one. Few gunpowder mills can boast a better result.

Again, as regards its use in mining, there are surely, by this time, more than 50,000 workmen who, from personal experience, can confirm that nitro-glycerine is not the intensely dangerous substance it is held to be by those who never saw it, but are all the more prolific in laying down its properties with the pretension to be believed.

In the mines of Clausthal alone, no less than 20,000 bores have been charged with nitro-glycerine, and with hard tamping too, and on that number were only two slight accidents, which is very little considering the novelty of the material. In Sweden and Norway the result is still more favorable, both as to safety and economy, and accidents have long been unheard of in those countries, except through wilful or gross neglect of the prescribed precautions.

So much for facts and obtained results. But I quite admit that nitro-glycerine has its drawbacks, chiefly connected with its liquid state. A leakage is the more difficult to prevent, since there must be room for expansion when the oil crystallizes, which circumstance has obliged me to resort to square tins. Bottles of india-rubber are far better, since they completely protect nitro-glycerine against the danger arising from shocks, but are expensive, and somewhat difficult to obtain of a reliable quality—at least, I have not succeeded therein until now.

Nitro-glycerine has been much accused of spontaneous combustion, and so has gun-cotton. The truth is that either, unless properly purified, and

its free acid neutralized, will emit a nitrous smell, and gradually decompose, if left at the ordinary temperature, in the course of some years. Before the apparatus now used in the manufacture of nitro-glycerine was adopted, I have heard of a few instances where blasting oil had been forwarded which smelt of nitrous acid, and continued to do so for several years; but that has long ceased to be the case, and Mr. Bell, at Newcastle, when he expressed his opinion that nitro-glycerine, unless pure, is apt to decompose, spontaneously or not, and is difficult to obtain in a pure state, was unaware of the easy mode by which I obtain it chemically pure—viz., crystallizing it from its solution in wood naphtha. The fact is that nitro-glycerine, like most crystallizing substances of a uniform composition, is a very reliable substance, and unless it was so, I could not possibly store it in such large quantities as I do. As far as my experience goes, I have found gun-cotton far less reliable, and yet, though it is much used in England, we hear of no accidents now. It is, therefore, better to leave alone spontaneous combustion as a false argument against improvement in this and other cases.

Nitro-glycerine is also charged, and all the world believes it, with being extremely dangerous, even from the scratch of a needle, when congealed. It is a mere fable. It is the nature of every explosive to be more sensible to concussion in its liquid state than solid state, since bodies, as a rule, are possessed of greater stability at a lower temperature. As regards nitro-glycerine, the congealed crystals, to be exploded, require a far more potent blow than the liquid oil, and it was probably owing to adhering drops of the latter that the Newcastle explosion took place. A crystal thrown with great violence against a stone or iron plate, is crushed without exploding, and a strong percussion cap, when inserted into it, produces the same effect. In the mines of Königsgrube (Silesia), a large lump of congealed oil was hurled by an explosion against the rock, and dropped harmlessly to the ground. That a workman (likewise in Silesia), against the re-

peated warning of his comrades, by dint of strong exertion with a pickaxe and hammer, finally succeeded in blowing himself up, is interesting only as an acquisition to the annals of madness, and as a warning.

In these days every mischief is charged to nitro-glycerine. Thus, we read in the *Northern Evening Express*, that recently a box with nitro-glycerine exploded at a railway station in the city of Berlin, "and that the simple act of placing it in the van caused it to explode." It is a proved and confirmed fact, that it was fulminate of

mercury that exploded. Last year somebody pretended that the mere contact with oil of turpentine would cause nitro-glycerine to go off. It has grown to be almost a truism now, and yet there is not a particle of truth in the whole story.

Even now people want us to believe that the rubbing of two crystals inside the tin, or even no exterior cause at all, might have brought about the recent explosion. It is better, however, to look for its natural cause—a blow or shock producing a considerable concussion.

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## THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1868.

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### FULFILMENT OF PROPHECY.

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THE deplorable condition of the United States, as set forth in the article which we publish this week, is calculated to cause every American heart to mourn. The great Republic, which bid fair to become the leading and most powerful nation on earth, is fast breaking to pieces. The national motto, *E Pluribus Unum*, is now inappropriate and untrue. Division is written upon all the nation's acts, and dissolution is right in its path. It is no longer merely the South against the North—Democrats against Republicans—but each party is at war with itself, and even the Government is split into contending factions. The Legislative and the Executive are fighting with the bitterest hatred each for power over the other, while the whole nation, suffering, impoverished, and angry, looks in vain to its rulers for help and sympathy.

Ten years ago who would have believed that the great United States, becoming every day more rich and mighty among nations, making all the world to feel and acknowledge its strength, would soon be rent in twain—be shorn of its glory—and, being blinded with the spirit of bloodshed and folly, madly work out its own destruction? No one but the Saints; and they were counted as croakers and fools when they predicted these things. But they know that the word of the Lord could not fail; and though years rolled on, and the natural eye could not discern the approaching national storm, they knew that it must come, and burst in all its fury upon the people who had shed the blood of Prophets and Saints. For the Lord had revealed these things through the Prophet Joseph Smith, and the nation had hastened its doom, being stained with the unavenged and innocent blood of that great and good man.

On 25th December, 1832, the following revelation was given, and was subse-

quently declared by the Elders of the Church through all the United States, but the prediction was treated with scorn and derision :—

“Verily thus saith the Lord, concerning the wars that will shortly come to pass, beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina, which will eventually terminate in the death and misery of many souls. The days will come that war will be poured out upon all nations, beginning at that place ; for behold, the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States, and the Southern States will call on other nations, even the nation of Great Britain, as it is called, and they shall also call upon other nations, in order to defend themselves against other nations ; and thus war shall be poured out upon all nations. And it shall come to pass, after many days, slaves shall rise up against their masters, who shall be marshalled and disciplined for war : And it shall come to pass also, that the remnants who are left of the land will marshall themselves, and shall become exceeding angry, and shall vex the Gentiles with a sore vexation ; and thus, with the sword and by bloodshed, the inhabitants of the earth shall mourn ; and with famine, and plague, and earthquakes, and the thunder of heaven, and the fierce and vivid lightning also, shall the inhabitants of the earth be made to feel the wrath, and indignation, and chastening hand of an Almighty God, until the consumption decreed, hath made a full end of all nations ; that the cry of the Saints, and of the blood of the Saints, shall cease to come up into the ears of the Lord of Sabbaoth, from the earth, to be avenged of their enemies. Wherefore, stand ye in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come ; for behold it cometh quickly, saith the Lord. Amen.”

There is no need now to testify of the truth of the first portion of that remarkable prophecy, for it has been fulfilled with that literal exactness which marks the accomplishment of all the words of the Lord. It was the South that rose against the North, and, contrary to the expectations of the world, it was the South that called on Great Britain for help. It was in South Carolina that the rebellion commenced, and the first gun fired on Federal soldiers from the walls of Fort Sumter, should sound in the ears of all the world as a testimony that God spoke through the mouth of Joseph the Seer. That war has indeed “terminated in the death and misery of many souls.” How many volumes could be filled with details of the horrors and desolation consequent upon that great conflict—the fiercest and most lamentable civil war in history !

And now each mail brings us word of some new atrocity committed by the negroes, who, the revelation declares, should “rise against their masters, who shall be armed and disciplined for war.” The aborigines also have been “vexing the Gentiles with a sore vexation,” though their depredations are but a prelude to the troubles that will follow.

But the Lord is still merciful to that nation, and now, when they should have learned obedience by the things they have suffered, he is sending his servants among them once more, to show the repentant the way of escape before the fulness of his wrath is poured out. Let those who have been awakened by the voice of the past war and the present troubles, arise and flee to the mountains, that they may “stand in holy places and be not moved,” when the next blow shall descend upon the head of the nation.

In reflecting upon the exact fulfilment of the former part of the prophecy we have quoted, it is only reasonable and consistent to look forward to, and expect

the perfect accomplishment of every word of the latter part. And when we look at the warlike spirit which is animating the people of all countries, and see the vast preparations which are being carried on for the coming struggle, we cannot help viewing them as indications that the time is very near when war shall be poured out upon all nations," and the Lord will make a full end of them.

It is true, as is often urged, that wars have occurred from time immemorial, and that almost coeval with the history of man, he has been arrayed in strife against his brother, and therefore that wars in themselves are no signs of any great change to the world. But it must be borne in mind that these wars of the present times are occurring in fulfilment of a definite prediction, which declares where they are to commence, how they are to continue, and what shall be their final result. The prediction, so far, has been fulfilled as literally and precisely as any accomplished prophecy which the Christian world quote from the Bible as an evidence of its truth. Not only has that awful civil war spread misery and death, but "with famine, and plague, and earthquakes, and the thunder of heaven, and the fierce and vivid lightning also, the inhabitants of the earth" are beginning to feel "the wrath of an offended God." And we testify that every word of that revelation shall be fulfilled, until the consumption decreed shall be poured out, and the Lord shall make a full end of all the nations of the wicked.

In view of the terrible calamities which are beginning to be felt, and will shortly fall in all their bitterness and force upon a guilty world, we call upon all people to repent, and turn unto the Lord with all their hearts, and escape to Zion, that they may be hid in the chambers of the mountains in the day of the Lord's anger.

We are gratified to hear of the success of our brethren in the Southern States, and earnestly hope that many have been so humbled by their recent trials, that they may be disposed to obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and cast their lot with the people of the Saints, who will shortly be the only people who shall not be at war one with another. All Americans who love their country and admire truth and righteousness, should hail with joy the Power which is growing up in the mountains of the West, for therein alone will be salvation and redemption for the nation, when God has taken away the dominion of the wicked. And all people of every country who desire peace, justice, and truth to prevail on the earth, should join hands and hearts with the Saints of God, and strive to hasten the day when war shall cease and strife shall pass away, when the righteous shall rule, and God's kingdom shall bear sway over all the earth.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## AMERICA.

St. Louis, Dec. 18th, 1867.  
Resident F. D. Richards.

Dear Brother,—I embrace this opportunity of writing you a few lines. My health is good. I have been

laboring in the States since July in connection with others. We have been blessed in our labors beyond our expectations. We find no difficulty in getting a hearing, and find but little prejudice against the Latter-day work,

less than I ever met with in the States. I baptized ten in Miss. in November, and others are believing. Elder W. N. Dusenberry, of Provo, is still labouring in that field.

The Elders in Western Virginia are doing well; the last I heard from them they had baptized 19, and had good prospects of a greater work. Matters are more quiet in the Southern States than I expected to find them, yet all are fearful of the future, they seem to hope against hope; they are tired of war, yet they live in dread. Their trade is ruined. England, their old cotton market, is supplied by other countries. Cotton, their staple, and once supposed to be king, is dethroned and worth nothing; the tax on it amounts to one-fourth of what it can be sold for in the interior. Farmers who invested in its production the past year will not clear expenses. The people are much in debt, and but little money in circulation. They feel that the government has been cruel towards them since the surrender in not restoring them to fellowship in the family of States upon equal terms, but by forcing them in upon terms to them more humiliating than war itself. They are willing to let slavery go, and say no more about it; but negro equality (or supremacy, as it now is) they cannot endure; disarmed, disfranchised, and ruled by others, they have to bide their time, hoping that the great wheel of events will turn up something in their favor by and by. This is about the feeling that exists there on these subjects as far as I could learn. Brother David M. Stuart, of Ogden City, is presiding over the Branch of the Church in this city. He has been here about a month. He left Great Salt City on the 10th ult. He joins in compliments to you.

We are greatly in want of books. If you can send us a parcel to this place I think we could dispose of them readily, and forward you the means, or hold it subject to your order. If you can send the books, we would like to have them at once. Send to the address of David M. Stuart, care of A. J. Kershaw, No. 2006, North Fourteenth-street, St. Louis, Missouri.

We have a field, placed under my charge, comprising all the country in

the States west of Philadelphia. There are nine of us in this vast field, and while matters remain as they are there is a chance of doing good.

My address is—Du Quoin, Illinois, care of Benjamin Crain. If convenient, please write.

Your brother in the work of the Ministry,

JOHN BROWN.

#### SCANDINAVIAN MISSION.

Copenhagen, Dec. 31, 1867.

President F. D. Richards.

Dear Brother,—Another year having elapsed, I take pleasure in forwarding to you the Statistical and Financial Reports of this the Scandinavian Mission. In taking a retrospective glance over the past year, I feel to praise the Lord for the manifold blessings bestowed upon myself and the Elders labouring with me in this extensive field of labor. Number of baptisms in Denmark have been 457; in Sweden, 320; and in Norway, 104; making a total of 881.

The Priesthood have been united with me in their efforts to spread the Gospel, and in bearing a faithful testimony to the work of God, established by his Prophet in this the last dispensation. We number in Denmark at present, after deducting the excommunicated, emigrated, and dead 2259; in Sweden, 1644; and in Norway, 838; making a total of 4741. The majority of the Saints are poor, and have a hard struggle to subsist, still they are willing to sustain the work, and to meet the requisite demands for hall rents, support of the Priesthood, poor help, paying of Stars, pamphlets, &c.; and those better allotted have been willing to pay their Tithing, the amount of which—£431 13s. 4d.—I have forwarded to you.

The prospect of the work is still promising, though there are parts of the old fields barren and exhausted, as it were, still there are other parts which yield a good harvest, and the husbandmen have done their best in sowing and watering in all places suitable for cultivation, trusting in the Lord for the further growth to his honor and glory.

The two young Elders I sent to Slesvig-Holstein have reported that

when they came to the city of Flensburg the police authorities forbade them to hold public meetings, or to sell their writings. The one got permission to stay three days, the other eight days, to seek employment in the town; if they were able to get work in their respective trades they could remain, else they had to absent themselves after the expiration of the said terms. One of the brethren, a cigar maker, concluded to seek employment, and having gained acquaintance with two families, who were kindly disposed and willing to listen to the Gospel, and to give him a place of refuge, he entertained hopes of being able to spread the truth in a private way, according to my instructions, and to prolong his stay, as far as circumstances would permit. The other Elder decided to go to the Island of Als, to try what he could do there, and then to take a trip into Holstein. I entertain the hope that the Lord will assist them to get the Gospel introduced, if they are wise and judicious in their proceedings, avoiding coming in contact with the police authorities, who are very strict in maintaining the prohibiting regulations that exist at present, only allowing the so-called established churches and dissenters acknowledged by the government free religious worship.

I am longing to see the day when the power of Babylon shall be broken and the honest among mankind have a right to embrace the everlasting truth, contained in the Gospel plan of salvation. Glorious day when the Kingdom of God shall have subdued all opposing enemies, and shall set at liberty all the oppressed and captive. Glory be to God, who is hastening his work by inspiring his servant Brigham to lay plans for the gathering of the poor from abroad on a larger scale than formerly; and blessed be the leaders of Israel, and the people of God at home, who are willing to carry out everything enjoined upon them for the consummation of the purposes of our Lord and Redeemer, who is remembering with great mercy his scattered sheep and lambs, who are longing to be gathered to the fold.

The Valley brethren labouring in this Mission have enjoyed good health,

with a few exceptions, and the climate here, though somewhat rigid in the long winter, seem to agree pretty well with those who have been born and brought up in these countries.

My co-workers and the Saints join me in love to yourself and your associates, and we jointly wish you a happy and prosperous New Year and every needful blessing.

I remain, as ever, your humble fellow-labourer in the cause of Christ.

C. WIDERBORG.

#### ENGLAND.

Coventry, Jan. 6, 1868.

President Richards.

Dear Brother,—I trust you have got clear of the cold you had while here, and that your visit to Coventry has done you no harm, and if it has, your hurt has been our good. May the Lord God our Father bless you, dear brother. Many have joined the Church since you were here. Saturday evening, 4th instant, I baptized twelve persons. That man that said if the Elders would not come to his house and eat the food he had prepared for them, that he would sit up at nights himself and eat it, was the first of the twelve that were baptized. I have been round visiting a few of the Branches. Loxley Branch added four while I was there. The Lord is working with the honest in heart. There are many that will obey the Gospel soon in this part. I wish my health was good, so that I could visit the Saints oftener. We had a big time in Coventry yesterday; quite a number of strangers were there. I think of leaving Coventry for Leamington to-night, and will send in the monthly returns as soon as I can. Brother and Sister Strickley are well, and send their kind love to you. I close with every affectionate wish to yourself and the brethren in the office.

Your brother in the Gospel,

GEORGE HUNTER.

P.S.—I expect to baptize 3 more on the 11th.

#### IRELAND.

Dublin, Jan. I, 1868.

President F. D. Richards.

Dear Brother,—Your kind letter of Dec. 4th, I will endeavor to answer.

The Statistical Report and moneys will be forwarded this week, and in future will be sent every quarter. My feelings regarding the good work that I am engaged in, are full of gratitude. I am truly grateful to my heavenly Father for giving me the privilege of helping to bring about a reign of righteousness, which will produce "peace on earth and goodwill to men." I know that it is God's work that I am engaged in, and I dearly love it, and Oh! how I long to be able worthily to represent it, to reflect in every action of my life, the pure and holy principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To that I am aiming, and for that I will strive, God being my helper. I know that I am very far from the goal of my aspirations, with many shortcomings and imperfections, still that is the mark of my high calling, and though slow, yet with that stamina, buoyancy, and power, that the Spirit of God gives, there is no room for despair.

Since I came to this country, May, 1859, up till the present, little apparent good has been done. We have distributed tracts, invited all we could to attend our meetings, sought out opportunities of conversation with all who would listen, but our principles are held in such utter abhorrence, that as I have been often told, we were just barely tolerated because we were quiet. When I came, Elder John K. Grist, (who lately died in Utah,) was President, and he and his family, with two or three more, formed the Branch. We met in his house, and he strove faithfully all he could to forward the work, but continually lamented his want of success. He left for Liverpool in 1860. A week or two after, brother John Wallace from England came, and was appointed

President. We met in his house for seven months. When he left (he is now in our mountain home), your humble servant was then called to preside. We took a hall, and kept it for two or three years, then gave it up according to counsel, and met in Elder John McMekin's house. We were then counselled to take the hall again, which we did, striving to do good, but as yet with no sign of success. There is no out-door preaching allowed. About 2 years and 4 months ago, Elder William Pearson, formerly of this Branch, but who had been working for some time in Glasgow, came back again. I requested that he might be appointed President in my place, hoping that the change might result in good, and my request was complied with. He is a good man, a faithful shepherd over the little flock, and is beloved and respected by us all. We are but very few who meet on a Sunday, yet our meetings are sweet and refreshing. I have realised this in my sojourn here, that strength and power necessary for every day's salvation is not dependent on numbers, place, or position, but is accessible to every Saint of God in the path of duty. Two of our little Branch are in Cork, one in Bray, and another one we have lost trace of for some time; still we feel to rejoice in anticipation of the good time coming, in fact, I feel that it is good all along—our trials are good, our temptations are good, for thereby we can realise the mercy and power of our heavenly Father, who will grant us strength according to our necessities.

Receive the love and esteem of all here, and I remain, and hope ever shall, your brother and humble fellow-worker in the good work,

ROBERT BROWN.

#### SUMMARY OF NEWS.

The *Courrier de Saone-et-Loire*, in referring to the terrible explosion of fire-damp at Blanzay, states that 57 corpses have been already got out, and that 34 more are supposed to be in the galleries which have not as yet been entered. M. Schneider, director of the Creuzot establishment, and president of the Legislative Body, has sent 10,000f. to the families of the persons killed by the explosion.

The *Panama Star* states that the hurricane in the West Indies destroyed upwards of 700 lives and \$8,000,000 worth of property.

Dr. H. Medlock says the so-called Greek fire may be immediately and permanently extinguished by a solution of common washing soda, one pound to a gallon of water.

Two fatal colliery accidents occurred in Leeds last week.

During the year 1867 the deaths of 164 persons who were killed by horses or carriages in the streets of London were registered.

The Warsaw official *Dziennik* publishes a ukase, in which the "Kingdom of Poland" is no longer accorded the name it has held so long, but designated as the "Vistula Province."

A New Haven paper, describing the localities of three prominent institutions of that city, says:—"The Medical College is on the road to the cemetery; the Divinity College on the road to the poor-house; and the Law School on the road to the gaol."

An official document shows that the late Fenian outrage in Clerkenwell caused seven deaths; inflicted severe (in some cases permanent) injuries upon 41 persons; rendered 56 homeless; and inflicted more or less suffering upon 600 families.

Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 9.—A terrible fire has destroyed the workings of the San John del Rey Mines; 18 lives were lost. The fire is supposed to have been the work of incendiaries. Advices from the seat of war state that the belligerents in Paraguay were quiet. President Lopez was disarming his outer lines, while the allies were strengthening their cordon round Humaita. The blockade was perfect. Cholera was prevalent at Tayi.

Shanghai, Dec. 7.—Intelligence received here announces that a political revolution has taken place in Japan. The Tycoon has resigned. It is supposed that the foreign relations of Japan will not be prejudiced by the change. An adjournment of the opening of the new ports for a few months is, however, considered probable.

Naples, Jan. 4.—The eruption of Mount Vesuvius yesterday assumed alarming proportions. An immense current of lava has overflowed the central cone, and is now skirting the hill on the west and north-west, and approaching the village of Cercola. Constant shocks and detonations are occurring. Great panic prevails in the villages on the slopes of Vesuvius.

The *Times* states that the whole number of foreign-born citizens naturalised in the United States has been estimated to exceed 4,000,000, at least half of whom are immigrants from British territories, and more than one-third from Ireland alone. A nation so largely composed of foreign elements must be naturally rebels against the strict British theory of perpetual allegiance. The *Times* adds that if no overture has been made by the American Government on the ground of international policy for an alteration of our system, it trusts that Lord Stanley will take the initiative in proposing a basis of settlement.

A Toulon letter states that two steam frigates are under orders to convey 500 tons of stores to Civita Vecchia, as the stay of the French troops at the latter place may last indefinitely. It is said that a plan has been conceived at the Vatican to augment the mercenary legions, so as to be able, in case Italy should find herself at war with a neighbouring Power, to pass from the defensive to the offensive. The additions thus to be made were expected to be chiefly Dutch. Whether this rumour is in all respects correct is doubtful, but it is certain that the Antibes Legion and the Papal Zouaves have recently so increased that the strength of the former is now nearly 2000, and of the latter more than 5000.

**EDUCATION.**—Some suppose that every learned man is an educated man. No such thing. That man is educated who knows himself, and takes accurate common sense views of men and things around him. Some very learned men are the greatest fools in the world; the reason is they are not educated men. Learning is only the means, not the end; its value consists in giving the means of acquiring, the use of which, properly managed, enlightens the mind.